

JUL 7 1965

# THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE

*A Graduate University and Research Center*

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

July 7, 1965.

To U.S. Nobel Laureates in Science:

As you may know, Senator Ernest Gruening (D-Alaska) is now sponsoring a bill in Congress (S.1676) which he refers to as the "birth control information bill." Senator Gruening is now holding hearings on this bill before the Government Operations Subcommittee on Foreign Aid Expenditures, of which he is Chairman.

This bill, and the purpose of the present hearings, have been well outlined by Elinor Langer in Science, vol. 148, p. 1702, June 25, 1965.

I have undertaken, on behalf of Senator Gruening, to invite the U.S. Nobel Laureates in Science to testify before his subcommittee. I have been encouraged in this by your enthusiastic endorsement of the statement prepared earlier this year.

The date now set for this hearing is Wednesday, July 14, at 10 a.m. in the Subcommittee meeting room, Washington, D.C. At this hearing the plan is for a number of Nobel Laureates from different disciplines, speaking as leading scientists, to present their views of the significance of population control, and the consequences of a continued population explosion. This, from the point of view of their own particular area of science, and in relation to its future development and contribution to society.

There will be no attempt, at this hearing, to elicit testimony relating to the technical and specialized aspects of the problem. These will be covered by appropriate experts in later hearings during the summer.

The aim of inviting testimony from our group is admittedly educational, in stimulating free discussion and full consideration of this most important world problem by Congress, and before the people of this country.

It is only because I consider, as most of you do,

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this problem to be of primary importance and urgency, that I agreed to cooperate in this effort. This, even though Senator Gruening regrets that no funds are available to support our participation.

Testimony may be presented either in person or by letter. Please let me know immediately if you wish to testify and whether or not you will be able to attend in person. In either case a written statement should be submitted for the record.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "E. L. Tatum", written in dark ink.

E. L. Tatum

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